



Grants to Individuals

The Arts Endowment funds individual artists directly through its Literature, American Jazz Masters, and National Heritage Fellowships. All fellowship recipients must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Literature Fellowships in poetry and prose, which are open for direct application, are awarded to writers of exceptional promise who frequently become luminaries of contemporary American literature. The American Jazz Masters and National Heritage Fellowships — awarded on the basis of nominations — are conferred on master artists with distinguished careers.

Literature Fellowships



Kathleen Tyau used her Literature Fellowship to write her novel *Makai*, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in 1999. Photo copyright Stewart Harvey.

Literature Fellowships offered by the National Endowment for the Arts are designed to help writers at critical stages of their careers. During the past 32 years, the National Endowment for the Arts has awarded Literature Fellowships to 2,337 writers, and sponsored work resulting in over 2,200 books, including many of the most acclaimed novels of contemporary American literature: Bobbie Ann Mason's *In Country*, William Kennedy's *Ironweed*, Jane Hamilton's *A Map of the World*, and Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*. Creative writing fellowships are awarded in alternate years for poetry and for prose, and translation fellowships fund the translation of literary works originally written in foreign languages into English. Awards are in the amount of \$20,000 each.

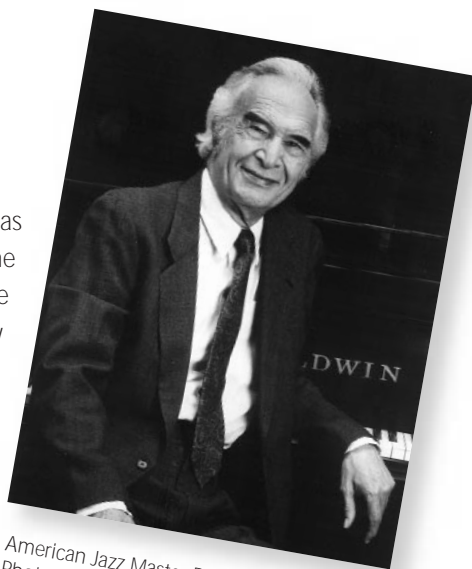
Competition for Literature Fellowships is extremely vigorous. Of 587 applicants in 1998, 32 were awarded grants, a funding rate of five percent. This year's creative writing fellowships went to: Steven Bloom, Heidelberg, Germany; Alan Brown, New York, New York; Charlie Elizabeth Buck, Virginia City, Nevada; Veronica Chambers, Brooklyn, New York; Lan Samantha Chang, Appleton, Wisconsin; Nancy Amanda Cockrell, Roanoke, Virginia; Carolyn Cooke, Point Area, California; Jennifer C. Cornell, Corvallis, Oregon; John Daniel, Elmira, Oregon; Tracy D. Daugherty, Corvallis, Oregon; Peter Ho Davies, Eugene, Oregon; Pam Durban, Atlanta, Georgia; Elizabeth J. Evans, Tucson, Arizona; Stephanie Grant, Brooklyn, New York; Arthur T. Homer, Omaha, Nebraska; Ngoc (Jade) Quang Huynh, Boone, North Carolina; Louis B. Jones, Nevada City, California; Kathy J. Karlson, University Park, Maryland; Anna Maria Keesey, Portland, Oregon; Miriam Levine, Arlington, Massachusetts; Anita Mathias, Williamsburg, Virginia; Holly W. Matter, Seattle, Washington; Martha S. McPhee, New York, New York; Emily Meier, St. Paul, Minnesota; Nancy B. Reisman, Providence, Rhode Island; Robert D. Schultz, Decorah, Iowa; Jessica Treadway, Arlington, Massachusetts; Kathleen Tyau, Gaston, Oregon; Marc John Vassallo, New Haven, Connecticut; and Kate Walbert, Stony Creek, Connecticut. Translation fellowships went to Wayne P. Lammers of Tigard, Oregon and Brian Thomas Oles of Seattle, Washington, for translation of prose works originally written in Japanese and Russian.



American Jazz Masters Fellowships

Jazz music, born in America in the 20th century and adopted by the world, has been called by Columbia University jazz studies professor Robert O'Meally "the music of *e pluribus unum* — with a swinging beat." Proud of this rich legacy, the National Endowment for the Arts recognizes the importance of jazz as a truly American art form and seeks to increase awareness of our jazz heritage and encourage its perpetuation. The agency does this through awards to the men and women who have distinguished themselves as masters of the trade. To support their artistic excellence and continuing contributions, each American Jazz Master receives \$20,000.

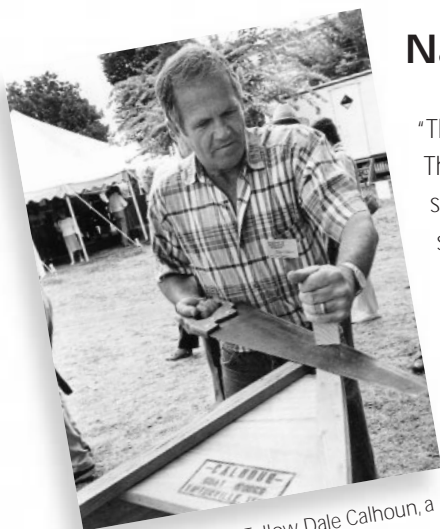
Since these fellowships began in 1982, the Endowment has recognized 55 persons as American Jazz Masters. This year's honors were bestowed on Dave Brubeck, pianist and composer from Wilton, Connecticut; Art Farmer, jazz trumpeter and flugelhorn player now living in Vienna, Austria; and Joe Henderson, tenor saxophonist from San Francisco, California. Chairman Ivey presented the awards during a concert celebration at the International Association of Jazz Educators Conference in Anaheim, California before an appreciative audience of more than 5,000.



American Jazz Master Dave Brubeck at the keyboard.
Photo courtesy of Sutton Artists Corporation.

National Heritage Fellowships

"The only way that things will always be is if you keep them the way you were taught." These words, spoken by 1998 National Heritage Fellow Sophie George, express the core spirit and guiding intent of these fellowships. The folk and traditional arts are those streams of artistic creation that emerge over time within communities that share a common heritage. Since 1982, the first year that National Heritage Fellows were named, 220 awards have been conferred. Their purpose is twofold: 1) to honor outstanding artists who practice one of the many artistic traditions that make up our nation's multi-faceted cultural patrimony; and 2) to celebrate these artists and their traditions and bring them to broad public attention. These awards annually celebrate the diversity and excellence that mark America's folk and traditional arts.



National Heritage Fellow Dale Calhoun, a fourth-generation boat builder, is acclaimed as the last craftsman of the Reelfoot Lake stumpjumper. Photo by Robert Cogswell.

Each National Heritage Fellow receives a \$10,000 award. In 1998, the awards were presented by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in a White House ceremony, and the fellows then performed or presented their handiwork to the public in an evening gala in Washington, D.C. The 11 artists or ensembles

honored were the Aspara Dancers, Cambodian traditional dancers from Reston, Virginia;

Eddie Blazonczyk, a Polish-American musician from Bridgeview, Illinois; Dale Calhoun, Anglo-American boat-builder from Tiptonville, Tennessee; Bruce Caesar, Sac and Fox-Pawnee German silversmith from Anadarko, Oklahoma; Antonio "Tony" De La Rosa, Tejano conjunto accordionist from Riviera, Texas; the Epstein Brothers, Jewish Klezmer musicians from Tamarac, Florida; Sophia "Sophie" George, Yakama-Colville beadworker from Gresham, Oregon; Nadjeschda Overgaard, Danish-American Hardanger needleworker from Kimballton, Iowa; Harilaos Papapostolou, Greek Byzantine chanter from Potomac, Maryland; Claude "The Fiddler" Williams, African-American jazz/swing fiddler from Kansas City, Missouri; and Roebuck "Pops" Staples, African-American Gospel/Blues musician from Dolton, Illinois.

